

By MIKE WHITESMAN: Sutton Utd. 1, Wycombe W. 2

ANY remaining doubts about Wycombe Wanderers' ability to come from behind, vanished with a ferocious fight-back at Gander Green Lane, where late goals from Tony Horseman and Len Worley reaped two of the most precious possible points in any campaign.

On Saturday's evidence, Sid Cann's machine at Sutton is in need of an overhaul.

The beaten Amateur Cup finalists had conquered Leytonstone and predictably annihi-

lated basement-bound Corinthian Casuals prior to Wanderers' visit.

Yet, even for the 56 minutes' duration of their lead, they were unconvincing by normal United standards.

Possibly their persistence in trying to outplay Wycombe in the air—where Wanderers' full and half-backs were tallest and strongest—was the direct cause.

For such a tactical error allowed the visitors to frequently overrun midfield, and they used this advantage as a springboard for their decisive second-half offensive.

Putting Thursday's Mithras Cup 'clanger' behind them, Wanderers lined up in a 4-3-3 formation, from which Lou Temel and Viv Busby were both discarded.

With Keith Samuels and industrious Ken Ward retaining their places from the Dagenham game, the switch round took Ian Rundle to right back and Horseman into the centre-forward position.

Bobby Hatt, still suffering the effects of a poisoned arm, returned to play with a bandaged left hand, alongside Barry Baker and Ken Ward in the link-line.

Sutton, spurred by memories of Wycombe's sneak away win last season, moved early into a series of crisp attacks that were to be less evident later in the afternoon.

The visitors, no doubt similarly remembering United's 'revenge' points at Loakes Park, tried hard to match them.

But first joy went Sutton's way. After 11 minutes, John Faulkner was first to rise from a tackle, and loosed a dangerous drive which Maskell could only palm to safety.

An excess of loose-passing from both sides ruined the possibility of any sustained good football, and consequently of either team becoming the commanding power.

Sutton grabbed a 16th-minute goal, however, when Terry Howard moved away in possession from the blind side of a ruck, and shot quickly, leaving Maskell beaten, and John Delaney a forlorn sprint in trying to cut the ball off in time.

Twice, through Delaney and latterly, Samuels, Wycombe's reply looked likely to come from a header, yet it was United's new signing from Kingstonian, John McBryde, who had that goal-scoring air about him in the first half.

And, but for excellent anticipation by Maskell in pulling down the right winger's 33rd minute volley, Sutton would have been two up at the interval.

Instead, McBryde's effect lessened considerably with the resumption, and despite a hair-raising 30-yarder slammed on to and over the visitors' 'bar' by Howard after 56 minutes, Wycombe systematically pushed Sutton back.

Horseman's goal, scored in the 70th minute, ran true to the state of play. It began with a Rundle-Hatt movement down centre field, from where a through pass found Wycombe's number 9, who outpaced his defensive 'shadow' and drove straight for the net.

The 88th minute winner cut short United's 'push' to regain that second point, when Horseman slipped possession to Worley, for the outside-right to offset two challenges and clear a path to goal. Keeper Dave Roffey moved swiftly off his line to narrow the angle, but the experienced Worley kept cool, shooting low.

Sutton: D. Roffey; R. Brookes, G. Garfield; E. Powell, J. Faulkner, D. Gradi; J. McBryde, T. Bladon, P. Drabwell, M. Mellows, T. Howard.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; J. Lailey, J. Delaney, K. Ward; L. Worley, B. Baker, A. Horseman, R. Hatt, K. Samuels. Sub.: V. Faulkner (not used).



LEN WORLEY . . . who wouldn't be smiling if they had scored the winning goal?